

ULTRASOUND TONSILS' EXAMINATION COMPARED TO THE LARYNGOLOGICAL BRODSKY' SCALE - ULTRASONOGRAPHIC STANDARDS OF SIZE AMONG CHILDREN WITH RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

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Introduction: In addition to sarcomas, the tonsillar tumours are the most common malignant diseases of the oropharynx among adults. Current studies of children' cases confirmed previous observations which indicated that inflammation of tonsils, as well as undergone tonsillectomy, may increase the risk of neoplastic diseases, particularly lymphomas.

Objective: The aim of the study was to estimate the average size of the palatine tonsils among children with diagnosed respiratory diseases.

Material and methods: The study was performed on a group of 131 children with respiratory diseases, undergoing a rehabilitation period in Szklarska Poręba in July 2013. The tonsils' size and symmetry were evaluated with the use of ultrasound. Moreover the tonsils were evaluated by Brodsky scale. In addition, each patient had the **jugulodigastric lymph nodes** evaluated, which are the main point of the lymph run off from tonsils. Their appearance, size and vascularity were rated.

Results: On the basis of ultrasound evaluation standard sizes of tonsils were estimated, relating to age and gender. The average sizes of the tonsils were: 1,42 ml for the left and 3,11 for the right tonsil. The ultrasonographical results characterised themselves with a strong correlation(>0.5) with the Brodsky scale evaluation. However, in 13.0%(17) cases there were some significant differences between Brodsky grading scale and sonogram results.

Conclusion: The obtained results of ultrasonographic examination may be helpful in the appropriate tonsil's diagnosis. Further investigation of the possible correlation between undergone upper respiratory tract inflammation or observed asthma and the size of tonsils should be held.